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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)/Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Czech Fortification Workers to Go to Germany

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1. On 1 Nov 53 the Ministry of National Defense, in accord with the Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Labor ordered the preparation of complete lists of all Czechoslovaks who were taken into the Todt Organization during the period 1939 to 1945. This Nazi organization recruited thousands of Czechoslovaks during the war and sent them to Germany to construct fortifications. Many of them also worked in France on the construction of the Atlantic Wall, and became very expert at their tasks.
2. After the war Czechoslovaks belonging to the Todt Organization proved that their participation in the construction of fortifications was ordered by the Czechoslovak Bureau of Labor, an organization which became completely Communist after the Liberation. They were amnestied and allowed to pass into civil life, and with a very few exceptions did not engage in building fortifications in Czechoslovakia.
3. During Oct 1953 General Gusev, Soviet military attaché at Prague informed the Czechoslovak authorities that the Russian high command in East Germany had decided to rehabilitate the old line of fortifications covering the Baltic coast. The mixed Russo-German commission headed by I.F. Semicastrnov asked the participation of all Czechoslovaks who had worked for the Todt Organization during the war.
4. The task of drawing up lists of Czechoslovaks needed was confided to a special commission, headed by General Smoldas. Czechoslovaks found adequate for the reconstruction of the Baltic Wall will be assembled in Roudnice nad Labem, Lovosice, Trutnov, Zábřeh, Bruntal and Hlohovec. They will receive semimilitary status and a special light training for six weeks. The first groups to go to East Germany will leave about 15 Feb 54. They will go to Stralsund, Rostock and Sassnitz. During their stay in East Germany they will be under the orders of the Soviet military authorities.

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